

The Army Corps of Engineers is implementing the project—which includes a system of levees, flood walls, flood gates, pumping stations and retention basins—to protect low-lying communities along flood plains of the Raritan River and its tributaries. Green Brook has received more than \$65 million in federal funding since 2001, and Mr. Piken has been instrumental in its progress.

Before his current assignment, Mr. Piken served in the North Atlantic Division, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, on a special assignment as the Director of Programs. In that position, he was responsible for the development of the water resources program for the Northeast as well as the management of all military design and construction in the Northeast and Europe.

I join the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in thanking Stu Piken for his dedicated service—especially to the constituents I represent—and I wish him the best in his future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO SERGEANT PHILLIP
A. BOCKS

HON. JOE KNOLLENBERG

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 23, 2008

Mr. KNOLLENBERG. Madam Speaker, I want to pay tribute to a hero from my congressional district, Sergeant Phillip A. Bocks of Troy, Michigan. Today, I ask that the House of Representatives honor and remember this incredible young man who died serving his country.

Phillip Bocks was not one to back down from a challenge. From the time he was five years old, Phillip insisted on skiing adult courses, and at age fourteen, joined a hockey league even though he had never worn a pair of ice skates. While in high school, Phillip was a member of the swim team, acted in plays, and developed a flair for cooking.

After graduating from high school, Phillip joined the Marines in 2000 and was assigned to the Marine Corps Mountain Warfare Training Center in Bridgeport, California. As an instructor, Phillip trained Marines how to survive and fight in rugged terrain. On November 9, 2007, while on a mission to a village near Aranus, Afghanistan to make sure the residents had medical supplies and food, Sgt. Bocks was killed in an ambush.

My thoughts, prayers, and deepest gratitude for their sacrifice go to Phillip's family. There are no words that can relieve their pain and I can only offer to convey my deep respect and highest appreciation.

Madam Speaker, Sgt. Bocks gave the ultimate sacrifice not only for the freedom and security of his family and our country, but for the people of Afghanistan. I wish to remember his bravery and selflessness as he is honored today.

COMMENDING DISTRICT 02 FIRE
DEPARTMENTS FOR A JOB WELL
DONE

HON. STEVE ISRAEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 23, 2008

Mr. ISRAEL. Madam, Speaker. I rise today to congratulate the brave men and women from the Deer Park, Lindenhurst, North Babylon, West Babylon and Wyandanch Fire Departments. There is no question as to why the firefighters belonging to the FDNY are considered New York's bravest. The exemplary behavior and actions of these fine individuals represent just that, bravery.

When a fire broke out at Our Lady of Miraculous Medal Church in Wyandanch fire fighters' from not only this town, but surrounding towns, joined together. They used their resources and managed to put out a fire that was large enough to severely damage the church rectory, food pantry and community outreach center. They managed to achieve this with no fatalities or injuries.

Our Lady of Miraculous Medal Church has provided outreach services for over 30 years. While it saddens me that an individual would intentionally start a fire at a place that has provided such charity, I feel a sense of ease at knowing that the brave fire fighters worked so quickly to counter these acts.

In closing, Madam Speaker, I want to commend the emergency responders for their bravery and a job well done. I would also like to express my deep gratitude to these men and women for their services not only on December 30th but on every day that they go out and risk their lives for others.

HONORING CATHY AND LEN
UNGER

HON. HOWARD L. BERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 23, 2008

Mr. BERMAN. Madam Speaker, my colleague, Congressman HENRY WAXMAN and I rise to pay tribute to our good friends, Cathy and Len Unger, who are being honored by the American Jewish Committee, AJC, at the Ira E. Yellin Community Leadership Award Dinner on January 24, 2008.

The AJC has chosen to recognize Cathy and Len, two remarkable leaders for their deep commitment to ensuring equal opportunities for all people and protecting their essential rights and liberties. For over 100 years, the AJC has been a vital organization in the Jewish community. It has continued its efforts to combat anti-Semitism, promote pluralism and democratic values, support Israel's quest for peace and security, advocate for energy independence and strengthen Jewish life.

As with all of us, Cathy and Len are the products of their family experiences. Len was born in a displaced persons camp after his parents survived the Holocaust. Although Cathy's father is a native Angeleno, Cathy's mother fled Germany with her family in 1933.

Cathy and Len were introduced to the AJC by Cathy's father, but their active participation started after a trip to Israel, organized by Ira

Yellin, where they witnessed firsthand the impact of this outstanding organization. Upon their return, they joined the board of the Los Angeles chapter and have worked diligently to help the AJC attain its important mission.

Len graduated from UCLA and received his JD degree from Boalt Hall at UC Berkeley. Cathy also graduated from Berkeley. Len began his legal career in New York, where his pro bono work in a death penalty case earned him a Thurgood Marshall Award from the New York City Bar Association. When he relocated to Los Angeles, he joined the law firm of Levine and Krom, now Levine and Unger, where he currently practices.

Cathy became involved in politics, first working as a staff member for former Congressman Mel Levine during his tenure as a State Assemblyman, and then as a political and non-profit fundraiser. Both Cathy and Len have been politically active at local, State and national levels.

Their community interests involve many organizations. Cathy was appointed to the board of governors of the California Community Colleges. She is active on the local and national boards of Planned Parenthood and currently serves as chair of its Advocacy Project. She co-chaired the Women's Political Committee. Len is a member of the board and former chair of the southern California chapter of the Arthritis Foundation and is a recipient of the organization's Jane Wyman Humanitarian Award. He served as vice-chair of the national board of trustees of the Arthritis Foundation, and he currently sits on the board of Reprise! Broadway's Best, as well as on the boards of several charitable foundations. He also serves as a trustee of the investment board of the Los Angeles County Retirement Association.

Cathy and Len are the proud grandparents of Jack, Emma and Nate, children of Laura and Randy Dudley; and of Dylan, daughter of Susan and Daniel Unger.

We ask our colleagues to join us in saluting Cathy and Len Unger for their long-time commitment to public service.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MIKE ROSS

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 23, 2008

Mr. ROSS. Madam Speaker, on Tuesday, January 22, 2008, I was not present for votes as my flight from Arkansas to Washington, D.C. was delayed.

Had I been present for rollcall No. 19, H.R. 4211, a bill to designate the facility of the U.S. Postal Service located at 725 Roanoke Avenue in Roanoke Rapids, North Carolina, as the Judge Richard B. Allsbrook Post Office, I would have voted "yea."

Had I been present for rollcall No. 20, H. Res. 866, a bill honoring the brave men and women of the United States Coast Guard whose tireless work, dedication, and commitment to protecting the United States have led to the Coast Guard seizing over 350,000 pounds of cocaine at sea during 2007, far surpassing all of our previous records, I would have voted "yea."

TWELVE PINELLAS COUNTY CITIES HONORED BY THE ARBOR DAY FOUNDATION

HON. C.W. BILL YOUNG

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 23, 2008

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Madam Speaker, twelve Pinellas County, Florida cities were honored by the Arbor Day Foundation this year for their commitment to improving the environment.

This Tree City USA designation recognizes the commitment of towns and cities throughout our nation to preserving open lands and to beautify their streets and public lands through the planting of trees and other natural vegetation. Pinellas County, which I have the privilege to represent, has taken significant steps to maintain and enhance our state's natural beauty, even though it is Florida's most densely populated county.

The U.S. Forest Service's Urban and Community Forestry program provides key federal support for these efforts through state and local grants as well as with advice to local community leaders. Together, this federal, state and local initiative is making our communities better places to live.

The 12 Pinellas County communities honored this year as Tree Cities USA are the Town of Belleair led by Mayor George Mariani; the City of Clearwater led by Mayor Frank Hibbard; the City of Dunedin led by Mayor Robert Hackworth; the City of Gulfport led by Mayor Michael Yakes; the City of Largo led by Mayor Patricia Gerard; the City of Oldsmar led by Mayor Jim Ronecker; the City of Safety Harbor led by Mayor Andy Steingold; the City of St. Petersburg led by Mayor Rick Baker; the City of Seminole led by Jimmy Johnson; the City of South Pasadena led by Mayor Dick Holmes; the City of St. Pete Beach led by Mayor Ward Frisvolowski; and the City of Treasure Island led by Mayor Mary Maloof.

Madam Speaker, in closing, I would ask my colleagues in the House to join me in congratulating these 12 cities and the commitment of their residents to making them such special places to live, to work, and to play.

HONORING MARY LOIS McMILLAN

HON. MARSHA BLACKBURN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 23, 2008

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Mary Lois McMillan upon her retirement as a Career Counselor at WorkForce Essentials.

Since joining the Franklin Career Center more than fifteen years ago, she has been a cornerstone in the center's efforts to prepare Williamson County citizens for new and challenging careers. During her tenure, the Williamson County office was recognized as Career Center of the Year and received the Business Services Award on multiple occasions. Employers in the county trusted that any candidate she sent to them would be a viable and well-prepared applicant. Mary Lois McMillan is known throughout WorkForce Essentials as a dedicated team player with a tre-

mendous work ethic. She will clearly be missed.

In addition to her efforts at the Career Center, she has consistently given back to the community through her volunteer work with the Williamson County Chamber of Commerce, the Carnton Plantation, the Heritage Foundation of Franklin and Williamson County, and the Dress for Success program.

Please join me in thanking Mary Lois McMillan for her contributions to our community and to Tennessee. We should all be proud of the work she has done.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE RETIREMENT OF CAPTAIN DAVID MARTIN KARASEK FROM THE FLORIDA HIGHWAY PATROL

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 23, 2008

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Madam Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, it is an honor for me to rise today in recognition of Captain David Martin Karasek upon his retirement from the Florida Highway Patrol.

Captain Karasek's commitment to his country and community spans several decades. After serving in the United States Air Force for six years, Captain Karasek attended the Florida Highway Patrol Training Academy where he was appointed State Trooper on January 9, 1978. For over ten years, Captain Karasek served various communities in the State of Florida and attained numerous promotions. In 1990, Lieutenant Karasek transferred to the Florida Highway Patrol Training Academy where his experience and dedication made him instrumental in the fashioning of future State Troopers. A year later, Lieutenant Karasek was promoted to Captain and District Commander, where he has served for almost seventeen years.

Throughout his thirty year career with the Florida Highway Patrol, Captain Karasek has been awarded Trooper of the Month on six separate occasions, and in 1981 he was elected Exchange Club Trooper of the Year. From 1992 to 1994, Captain Karasek served as Vice President of the First Judicial Circuit Law Enforcement Association. Escambia County and Northwest Florida communities are deeply indebted to Captain Karasek, whose continual commitment provided safety and security for our roads in Florida.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I am proud to honor Captain David Martin Karasek for his enduring allegiance to the State of Florida and our great Nation.

HONORING CAPTAIN LOREN V. HECKELMAN

HON. THELMA D. DRAKE

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 23, 2008

Mrs. DRAKE. Madam Speaker, I would like to take this moment and thank my constituent, Captain Loren V. Heckelman, for his 28 years of service in the U.S. Navy. Captain Heckelman retired on January 1, 2008.

Captain Loren V. Heckelman served as Fleet Comptroller in the U.S. Atlantic Fleet from July, 2004 to June, 2007, administering a budget of \$8.4 billion.

Prior to July, 2004, he commanded the Fleet and Industrial Supply Center Norfolk, the Navy's largest supply center. In that position, Heckelman was also responsible for Program Manager, Supply and Logistics for the Commander, Navy Region Mid-Atlantic.

He has served in the United States Navy in several abroad tours. He served as supply officer for the nuclear powered aircraft carrier USS *Abraham Lincoln* while on deployment to the Persian Gulf and North Arabian Ocean and he was recognized as having the best service and sales operations among Navy aircraft carriers. In June, 1995, he acted as the Executive Officer in Yokosuka, Japan.

Heckelman was selected by the Undersecretary of the Navy to serve in the Department of the Navy's 1995 Base Realignment and Closure team, acting as the Infrastructure Analyst and the senior Supply Corps officer.

He served as the Executive Assistant to the Commander, Naval Informative Systems Management Center in Washington, DC.

Before receiving his master's degree of business administration from the University of Michigan, he served on the USS *Carl Vinson* as Stock Control and Readiness Officer.

His first command was on the destroyer USS *Bigelow*, first as Distributing Officer and quickly advancing to Sales Officer.

Highlighting his career in the United States Navy, Captain Heckelman has earned many awards including the Legion of Merit, Meritorious Service Medal, Naval Commendation Medal, Navy Achievement Medal, Military Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal, and the Meritorious Unit Commendation award.

I would like to convey my gratitude and congratulations to Captain Loren V. Heckelman for his 28 year commitment to the United States Navy and wish him the best in his future endeavors.

HONORING THE ACADEMY REVIEW BOARD AND ACADEMY NOMINEES FOR 2008

HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 23, 2008

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Madam Speaker, every year, more high school seniors from the 11th Congressional District trade in varsity jackets for Navy pea coats, Air Force flight suits, and Army brass buckles than most other districts in the country. But this is nothing new—our area has repeatedly sent an above average portion of its sons and daughters to the Nation's military academies for decades.

This fact should not come as a surprise. The educational excellence of area schools is well known and has long been a magnet for families looking for the best environment in which to raise their children. Our graduates are skilled not only in mathematics, science, and social studies, but also have solid backgrounds in sports, debate teams, and other extracurricular activities. This diverse upbringing makes military academy recruiters sit up and take note—indeed, many recruiters know our towns and schools by name.